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[Inclosure.]

Number of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction during the two weeks ended November 18, 1899.

Infectious diseases:	
Tuberculosis.....	12
Malarial fever	5
Typhoid fever.....	1
Dysentery	7
Smallpox (a).....	1
Tetanus	3
Measles.....	1
Septicæmia puerperal.....	1
	31
Diseases of the digestive apparatus.....	56
Diseases of the respiratory system.....	7
Diseases of the circulatory system.....	4
Diseases of the nervous system.....	1
Other diseases (anæmia, inanition, etc.).....	37
	136
Total.....	136
Births in the same period.....	55

A disinfecting room to be constructed at Ponce.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 21, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that on November 11, 1899, I made a request that the governor-general cause an air-tight room to be constructed at the Playa Ponce for the disinfection of infected baggage arriving at that port.

The application was approved and referred to the board of public works, with instructions to locate it upon public land. The architect will confer with Assistant Surgeon Lavinder as to the details and requirements.

I have suggested that a building 20 by 45 feet. with 10 feet inside from ceiling to floor, be erected, one end ceiled off, about 15 by 20 feet, lined with tin or sheets of zinc, for formaldehyd disinfection. The reserve space to be used as a baggage room, and of sufficient size to house a steam disinfecting chamber, when one is furnished the station.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,

Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

Smallpox on Spanish steamer Buenos Aires at San Juan.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 14, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival, at sundown November 11, 1899, of the Spanish steamer *Buenos Aires* from Cadiz, Barcelona, and the Canaries, bound for Havana, with a case of smallpox.

The case developed a few days after leaving Cadiz in the person of a passenger bound for Havana, and was isolated. The vessel was placed in quarantine under guard. The following day the patient died about the time preparations were completed for his removal to Cabras Island.

The body was ordered wrapped in a sheet saturated in bichloride solution, and as the vessel proceeded immediately from this port, the burial was directed to be made at sea.

All local baggage was disinfected and exposed nonimmunes were vaccinated and detained at the station under observation.

a In the country.